

Reorganizing the State's Recycling Programs

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

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Hon. Sheila Kuehl, Chair





Current Division of Recycling Responsibilities



Department of Conservation, Division of Recycling

- Responsible for recycling of beverage containers subject to the California Redemption Value (CRV).
- Containers (all material types) subject to CRV are those containing the following beverages:
 - Beer and malt beverages.
 - Wine coolers and distilled spirit coolers.
 - Carbonated fruit drinks.
 - Coffee and tea beverages.
 - Noncarbonated water, including noncarbonated mineral water.
 - Carbonated soft drinks.
 - Vegetable juice (16 ounces and under only).
 - "Sport" drinks.



California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB)

- Responsible for recycling of (1) beverage containers not subject to CRV and (2) all other solid waste.



Missed Opportunities



We have identified three major areas where the current separation of the state's recycling programs results in missed opportunities to more effectively and comprehensively address the state's recycling goals:

- Public Outreach and Education
- Recycled Material Market Development
- Sharing of Technical Expertise



Recommended Reorganization of Recycling And Waste Management Programs



Consolidating state's recycling programs opens door to other reorganization issues. While we recommend consolidating the state's recycling programs in a single agency, this opens the door to evaluating the organizational placement of the following programs:

- Related waste prevention programs in CIWMB.
- The remaining programs in CIWMB focused on the *regulation* of solid waste management.
- The remaining programs in the Department of Conservation (concerning mine reclamation; farmland and open space conservation; oil, gas, and geothermal resources; and geological mapping).



Recommended Reorganization of Recycling And Waste Management Programs *(Continued)*

- The LAO's recommended reorganization of the state's recycling and waste management programs (solid and hazardous waste) is as follows:

Current Structure:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Department of Conservation, Division of Recycling (DOR) [in the Resources Agency] ✓ California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) [in Cal-EPA] ✓ Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) [in Cal-EPA]
Revised Structure Under Reorganization:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Department of Recycling and Waste Prevention [in Cal-EPA] To include these current functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •All of DOR •CIWMB's Special Waste Division's recycling/waste prevention responsibilities •CIWMB's Diversion, Planning, and Local Assistance Division recycling/waste prevention responsibilities •CIWMB's Waste Prevention and Market Development Division ✓ Department of Waste Management [in Cal-EPA] To include these current functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •All of DTSC •CIWMB's Permitting and Enforcement Division •CIWMB's Special Waste Division's responsibilities outside of recycling/waste prevention •CIWMB's Diversion, Planning, and Local Assistance Division's responsibilities outside of recycling/waste prevention

- We recommend the Legislature consider options for transferring remaining (nonrecycling) functions in Department of Conservation to other state agencies.
- The LAO-recommended reorganization proposal would generate \$2 million in special fund savings by eliminating the CIWMB and its board structure.